



**Committee:** House Health and Government Operations Committee

**Bill:** House Bill 1155 - Workgroup on Establishing a Youth Codesigned Integrated Behavioral Health Model

**Hearing Date:** March 14, 2023

**Position:** Support

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The Maryland Assembly on School-Based Health Centers (MASBHC) supports *House Bill 1155 - Workgroup on Establishing a Youth Codesigned Integrated Behavioral Health Model*. This bill creates a Workgroup on Establishing a Youth Codesigned Integrated Behavioral Health Model to develop a plan for implementing a youth codesigned integrated behavioral health care pilot program at 3 sites in Maryland.

In 2022, the interagency *Report on Youth-Centered Behavioral Health Intervention and Prevention Programs*<sup>i</sup> highlighted the important role of prevention and early intervention programs, using the integrated youth mental health model, and which are youth-led and co-designed. These programs are an innovative approach to eliminating stigma and other barriers that discourage youth from accessing behavioral health care and other resources that can divert youth from the juvenile justice system. The report recommended that Maryland explore youth co-designed integrated behavioral health models as a way of reducing juvenile justice involvement, including a multi-layered group to start the planning and development process. MASBHC strongly supports this recommendation.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at [relliott@policypartners.net](mailto:relliott@policypartners.net) or (443) 926-3443.

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<sup>i</sup> [https://goccp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022-JCR-Pages-255-256\\_-GOCPYVS\\_-Report-on-Youth-Centered-Behavioral-Health-Intervention-and-Prevention-Programs.pdf](https://goccp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022-JCR-Pages-255-256_-GOCPYVS_-Report-on-Youth-Centered-Behavioral-Health-Intervention-and-Prevention-Programs.pdf)